

U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY CIVIL AIR PATROL

FULLERTON COMPOSITE SQUADRON 56

PO Box 2898
Fullerton, CA 92837

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Chris R. Storey, 1st Lt
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (310) 714-7365
E-Mail: cstorey@cawg.cap.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIVIL AIR PATROL MEMBERS ASSIST EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AFTER PLANE CRASHES

FULLERTON, CA - Minutes after a small plane crashed on Saturday during the Fullerton Airport Day air show, members from local Civil Air Patrol squadrons assisted emergency response personnel who responding to the crash.

The three-engine airplane, a 1986 replica of a 1920's era Ford Tri-Motor aircraft, veered off the runway during takeoff at the Fullerton Municipal Airport. The pilot pulled the aircraft into a steep climb and banked sharply, narrowly avoiding the control tower. The plane then nosedived onto Commonwealth Avenue, just outside of the airport, where it broke up on impact and erupted into flames.

Twenty-seven adult and cadet members of the US Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol were on hand to assist with the Fullerton Airport Day, a biannual open house featuring displays of vintage aircraft and aviation related displays. Civil Air Patrol members from four local squadrons, including two from Fullerton Airport, were staffing a recruiting booth and static display of a Civil Air Patrol aircraft. Civil Air Patrol members also assisted airport staff with crowd control for the event.

After the Tri-Motor crashed, Civil Air Patrol members were called into service by emergency responders. With approximately 1,000 spectators rushing towards the wreckage, crowd control became vital to ensure the safety of the spectators and to allow emergency responders to do their job. Civil Air Patrol members provided crowd control, helped to establish the incident command post, and cleared traffic paths for emergency vehicles.

"The cadets and their adult leaders were instrumental in forming a crowd control barrier," said Fullerton Airport manager Rod Propst. "They jumped in and took charge until police and fire department officials took over," said Propst.

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Civil Air Patrol members, adults and cadets, receive training and participate in emergency services activities such as search and rescue, first aid training, and locating missing or downed aircraft. The Civil Air Patrol supports state and local government agencies during disasters. Civil Air Patrol also plays a role in homeland security. Civil Air Patrol cadets, ages 12 to 21, learn valuable leadership skills and the importance of teamwork.

“The cadets did very well during a stressful event,” said Senior Member Grant Henninger, one of the Civil Air Patrol adult leaders present on Saturday. “They took direction well and were able to fill an important role,” Henninger said.

To learn more about the Civil Air Patrol in California, go to <http://cawg.cap.gov>. For information about the Fullerton Composite Squadron at Fullerton Municipal Airport, go to <http://sq56.cawg.cap.gov> or call (714) 866-3203.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization with almost 62,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 95% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force rescue Coordination Center. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counterdrug mission at the request of federal, state, and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years.

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For media inquiries:

Lt. Chris Storey
Public Affairs Officer
US Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol
Fullerton Composite Squadron 56
cstorey@cawg.cap.gov
(310) 714-7365